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Marcos charges prejudice on reports by media, U.S.

By Edward Neilan
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MANILA — President Ferdinand E. Marcos strongly criticized Western press and U.S. government intelligence reporting on the Philippines yesterday, claiming their "biases and prejudices" have added to his nation's image problems abroad.

In an exclusive interview with The Washington Times at Malacanang Palace — his second this year — Mr. Marcos pinpointed the Western press, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and the U.S. Embassy in Manila for inaccurate reporting.

"I am afraid for the United States," Mr. Marcos said, "because the information you are getting is rotten. Most of it is false and exaggerated. The assessments are all completely wrong. They let their biases and prejudices dominate."

"That's not the proper attitude," Mr. Marcos said. "I am intelligence-trained. I grew

up in intelligence. And I tremble everytime I see the reports of the CIA."

He said, "If this is the type of intelligence that the free world has, that the United States has, I am worried."

Mr. Marcos appeared to have plenty of energy after dealing with a morning round of calls and consultations. After a reporter's 40-minute visit he had a scheduled telephone hook-up with Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

On the question of his health, Mr. Marcos was succinct: "Those who predict my death, I will attend their funerals."

Mr. Marcos was asked if a possible rescheduled visit to the Philippines next April by President Reagan would help his own political fortunes.

"For what? I am not running for reelection," Mr. Marcos said. "But yes, of course, because the visit of a leader of his

stature is always something that will improve your image. But as I wrote him, what is important is his convenience.

"To be frank with you, for a while I thought of cancelling the visit. I wanted to show to everybody that we didn't need the visit to keep stability in the country.

"We are, of course, a little disappointed that he did not continue the visit. But if it involves his safety, as they claimed it did, it again makes me wonder how efficient the CIA is.

"If that is the efficiency of the CIA, I fear for the safety of the free world, because they don't know anything at all. They keep reporting so many wrong things. Even the State Department, even the embassy."

On the excellent security experience during the Reagan visit to Japan and Korea, Mr. Marcos said: "Well, if you have 90,000 policemen, you had better be good. But what I am worried about is that the CIA seems to be getting its information from press correspondents. They swallowed — hook, line and sinker — everything the correspondents put out and reported it as intelligence. Even the American Embassy did this. This is what happened in Iran; this is terrible."

Mr. Marcos moved up and down in his chair, and gestured as he continued on a subject he obviously feels strongly about. "Everybody demonstrates in the United States but you don't hear anything about it. You don't give it an assessment that the United States is about to fall."

Mr. Marcos said, "I am almost inclined to write my friend (CIA

Director William) Casey. He was here before. But I am afraid even he is being misled by his own agents."

The president was asked if he believes the local political climate will change with the recent announcement of approval of \$652 million International Monetary Fund loans for the Philippines and the progress of the commission looking into the death of Benigno Aquino.

"I believe it has changed," Mr. Marcos said. "The problem is that the climate is really in the mind of Western correspondents. Your ambassador to the United Nations, Jeane Kirkpatrick, had an apt thing to say. She said private media is one of the most powerful forces in that it is accountable to no one, no matter how vicious it is."

Mr. Marcos has said he would leave the question of presidential succession, including the proposal to restore the vice presidency, to the Batasang Pambansa (assembly). But he clearly still opposes a re-institution of the vice-presidency.

"You don't have a vice-president in a parliamentary system, which is what we have here," Mr. Marcos said. "You see, the problem here is that when you have a vice-president, he automatically becomes the president, even if he may not have been chosen as vice-president for the purpose of the problems the country could be facing at the time."

"What Americans and other Western people do not understand is that Asia and Africa are societies of consensus. Unless there is a strong father figure, and if the

father figure is eliminated, then the consensus applies. Which means that everybody has to help."

Mr. Marcos said he was aware that some people wanted to have a single person designated as his successor rather than leaving the choice to the Executive Committee.

"All right," Mr. Marcos said, "the next question is, suppose Marcos disappears? Whom do you think can take his place to get everybody to cooperate? (Prime Minister Cesar) Virata? They will laugh in your face. He may not even win an election. He is no politician and yet you are going to make him vice-president and automatically a candidate for president. He will lose the elections. He is not a politician, period. And if you insist on pushing him down the throat of the other leaders, you will have a rebellion."

"This is what most people don't understand. This is why Americans commit so many errors. They don't know the personalities involved. They don't know the background."

Assemblyman Arturo Tolentino, a member of Mr. Marcos' ruling party, is the chief proponent of restoration of the vice-presidency as a means of establishing a clear-cut line of succession. A decision on this question may be forthcoming this week.